



Portable River Toilet Systems

The Eco-Safe

Fact Sheet



Ammo cans may be purchased at military surplus stores and at many river supply companies.

The system is set up as follows: Pour the deodorant into the box and place the toilet seat on top of the can. The toilet is now ready for use. The hand washing bucket and the hand soap can be placed close by, or at the edge of camp. Do not place feminine hygiene items in the unit; have a plastic sack or bag for those items. After you use the ammo can, the toilet can then be covered with a large heavy-duty garbage bag, discouraging flies and insects.

The amount of chemical used per day depends on the type used and the amount of people on the trip. With liquid deodorants, a few ounces at the bottom of the unit are sufficient for six or seven people. If you are using bleach, more is required, approximately double. Quick lime should be sprinkled over feces after each use. The deodorant aids in reduction of bacterial growth in the feces and the production of methane gas.

The number of ammo cans or tanks needed is decided by the number of people and the length of the trip. We have found that it usually takes about one large ammo can to containerize about 70 to 80 person-days of feces. Thus, for an 8-day, 10-person trip, you would need only one ammo box for waste.

If you use toilet paper, it must go in the porta-potty or the garbage. If disposing of TP in the porta-potty, use sparingly, and only use toilet paper (not paper towels, napkins, etc.) At camp all paper can be put in the garbage or firepan, but during the day put all garbage paper in a bag or container and dispose of it properly at your evening camp.

Helpful Hint: On the morning of your take-out, put a bucket of water in your unit. This helps loosen materials and makes the unit easier to clean.

Before going into the field:

Add 4 to 8 oz. of biodegradable chemical deodorant approved for portable toilets.

Using in the field:

1. Undo the 6-inch port cap.
2. Securing seat – hold seat assembly upright and lock keyhole tab on back of the seat onto grooved stud that is on the 3-inch waste cap.
3. Lower seat assembly so that circular flange on bottom side of seat assembly slips into the 6-inch port.
4. Place Eco-Safe on level, firm surface before sitting.
5. When finished, remove seat and replace sealing 6-inch port cap.

Tips for use:

1. Do not urinate in the Eco-Safe.
2. Toilet tissue can NOT go into the Eco-Safe.
3. Feminine hygiene products should be packed out with the trash.